Vacancies in the health sector

869. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are at least 2,000 vacant jobs in Government hospitals in various places in the country including Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for such vacant posts in Government hospitals;

(c) how long these posts are laying vacant;

(d) whether Government is seriously considering to fill up these posts; and

(e) if so, by when Government is likely to fill up all the posts in the Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health is a State subject. The data about vacant job in Government Hospitals in various places in the country is not maintained centrally.

So far as Central Health Service is concerned, there are about 53 posts vacant in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. Bulk of the vacant posts however belong to the super specialities and some of these are for reserved for SCs/STs etc.

(d) and (e) Requisitions have been sent to the Union Public Service Commission to fill up vacant posts of doctors on regular basis. Appointments are also being made on contract basis to fill up the existing vacancies.

Basic healthcare to children

870. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a US based charity, more than 200 million children worldwide under age five do not get basic healthcare, leading to nearly 10 million deaths annually from treatable ailments like diarrhoea and pneumonia;

(b) if so, whether according to the report, in Asia, large disparities also exist in India and Indonesia;

(c) if so, the other main points mentioned in the report against India; and

(d) the steps being considered in view of this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to Save the Children, a US based organization, which released State of the World's Mothers Report 2008, more than 200 million children worldwide under age five do not get basic health care, leading to nearly 10 million deaths annually from treatable ailments like diarrhoea and pneumonia.

(b) According to the report, large disparities exist in India and Indonesia.

(c) The report mentions that 53% of under five olds do not have any access to health care.

(d) The sampling techniques, the methodology of sample collection and data survey have not been shared with the Government, nor has the report been presented to the Government.

However, steps are already being taken by the Government in this regard. These are implementation of the Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) strategy, which adopts a holistic approach to the management of the commonest causes of neonatal and childhood mortality - sepsis, acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, measles and malaria, all compounded by malnutrition. IMNCI shall be implemented throughout the country in a phased manner. In addition, thrust is being given to ensure, institutional deliveries and train health personnel on essential newborn care so that skilled attendance at birth is available and all newborns receive specialized care. Efforts to deliver new born care, both facility based as well as home based, are being made. Micronutrient supplementation with Vitamin A, Iron Folic Acid and Zinc, Infant and Young Child Nutrition are being stressed. Immunization is one of the major thrust areas of the ongoing Reproductive and Child Health Programme. The National Rural Health Mission, launched in April, 2005 for a period of 7 years (2005 to 2012) is an overarching initiative with a holistic approach which provides multiple strategic additionalities, like provision for health infrastructure up gradation and a health care worker for every 1000 population, among others and has envisaged reduction in Infant Mortality and Neonatal Mortality as one of the prime goals to be achieved.

Radiation from minerals at Kanyakumari beach

871. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extreme parts of coastal areas of southern India, particularly the sea beaches of Kanyakumari have high levels of natural radiation that emanates from the minerals found on beaches;

(b) whether it is a fact that a new study has revealed that radiation figures in some places near Kanyakumari are 50 times more than the world average and this could be a cause for cancer; and

(c) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to address the problem and warn visitors to the area, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare including Indian Council of Medical Research has neither conducted nor supported any study for the purpose.

Medical waste from hospitals in Delhi

872. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the hospitals in Delhi are not dealing with their waste according to the set guidelines and a substantial part of medical waste are finding their way back into the market, without treatment;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to study report by an NGO Vatavaran in this regard; and